

Applicant : Shackleford et al.
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph 2-3 on page 8 with the following amended paragraphs:

--It is desirable to bypass, or eliminate, laborious entry of user-preference data through a keypad. According to an example embodiment of the method of the present invention, a user enters user-preference data into the first computing device 110, for example a personal computer, using a keyboard having greater functionality and/or an easier mode of alphanumeric character data entry. According to one example application, the user-preference data is packetized as an electronic mail (*i.e.*, e-mail) message by an e-mail software application executing on the first computing device 110. An electronic system identifier associated with the user-preference data is included in the e-mail message.

Subsequently, the e-mail message containing the user-preference data and the electronic system identifier is sent to the second computing arrangement 120. The second computing device 120 is adapted to function as an electronic mail destination, for example by executing an e-mail software application of a server computing arrangement. According to one example implementation, the electronic system identifier is used to direct the e-mail to a particular e-mail destination address. In other words, each electronic system 150 has a unique email address at the second computing arrangement 120. According to another example implementation, all e-mail messages are designated

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to a common e-mail address, differentiation being accomplished by extracting the electronic system identifier from the email message. For example, the "subject" or "Re" portion of the e-mail message, or the first line of the body of the message, or some other predefined configuration is used to associate the electronic system identifier communicated with the e-mail message with the appropriate electronic system 150. According to another example implementation, each electronic system 150 is predefined to be associated with a user identifier, and e-mail received from the user identifiers thereby associated with a particular associated electronic system 150. Electronic system identifiers include, for example, the telephone number of a portable telephone, a serial number of a particular device, or some other identifying designator unique to the equipment of the electronic system or service account.--

Please replace the paragraph 1-4 on page 9-10 with the following amended paragraphs:

--The second computing device 120 is communicatively coupled to an electronic system 150 (e.g., a portable cellular telephone) through a wireless link 170. The wireless link 170 is established through one of any number of electromagnetic signal technologies, for example radiofrequency signals carrying digitally-encoded information. To configure the portable telephone with the updated directory data, the user dials the telephone number assigned to a downloading function. The

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telephone's identifier is either automatically extracted (as is well known for establishing communications between a cellular telephone and a central transceiving station), or is user-provided, for example by entry via the keypad. According to another implementation, the communication is directed to a particular destination associated with the electronic system's 150 information, such as an assigned mailbox. Accessing the downloading function, initiates retrieval of the user-preference data from the database 130 and transmission (over the wireless interface) to the electronic system 150. Once received, the user preference data is automatically programmed into the portable telephone, for example by being stored in an appropriate memory designated to store directory information.

Other configuration data may also be included as user-preference data, for example ring mode, dialing instructions, voicemail instructions and information, and other operating information. According to one more particular example implementation, directory information transmitted to the electronic system includes information previously stored in the first computing arrangement 110, for example the contact directory of a personal computer, thereby reducing the need to re-enter common information.

FIG. 2 illustrates another example embodiment 200 of the present invention, including a television recorder 280. A first computing device 210 is communicatively coupled to a second computing device 220 through a data network 240, such as the Internet. Second computing device

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220 is adapted to function as hyperlinked document (*i.e.*, web page) host, having an a server 226 arranged and configured communicatively interact with the first computing device 210 responsive to a request from the first computing device 210 for information contained by a hyperlinked document served by the second computing device 220. Server 226 is coupled to a database 230, in which web pages 234 and information received from the first computing device 210 is stored and retrieved.

According to one aspect of the present invention, second computing device 220 is communicatively coupled to a remote electronic system 250. According to one example implementation, server 226 and database 230 are communicatively coupled to a transmitter 236, by which information can be transmitted to the remote electronic system 250 over a wireless link 270, via one of several wireless technologies such as radio frequency signals, infra-red signal, satellite, or other digital or analog communication signals. According to another example implementation, the second computing device 220 and the remote electronic device are communicatively coupled via a hard-wired data communication network 278, such as a telephone or cable -based data system. The second computing device 220 and the remote electronic [[device]] system 250 may be communicatively coupled via more than one communication link.--

Please replace the paragraph 2-3 on page 10-11 with the following amended paragraphs:

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--One path for communicating user-selected preference data from a user to the electronic system 250 is via the remote controller 256. Remote control device 256 has a non-QWERTY keypad 260 and is communicatively coupled through a wireless link 255, for example to television 252. Keypad 260 is arranged and configured similar to a standard telephone keypad in one example implementation. The non-QWERTY keypad may include capability to communicate alpha-numeric information to television 252, either through multi-functional alpha-numeric keys, or via a combination of directional and select keys used to guide, then select alpha-numeric characters from a list displayed by television 252. Wireless link 255 may be implemented via one of many technologies, such as infra-red (IR) signal, the remote controller 256 having an IR transmitting port 258, and television 252 having an IR receiving port 254. Television 252 communicates visually to a user, who in turn, responds by communicating to television 252 through the remote controller 256. Remote controller 256 has a display (not shown in FIG. 2) for communicating information back to a user according to another example implementation.

User-preference data for a television system includes the user's personal operating settings, such as those that define picture and sound characteristics, select available channels, and various recorder 280 instructions, such as start recording date/time, stop recording date/time, and channel to record. Generally, a user configures the television system with the user-preference data in order to

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attain greater utility from the television system. The television (electronic) system 250 operates in accordance with the user-preference data.--

Please replace the paragraph 1-3 on page 11-12 with the following amended paragraphs:

--Because entry of user-preference data is typically an infrequent activity, the keypad facilities dedicated to user-preference data entry are limited, and often cumbersome as described above for a portable telephone. Some television systems have simplified entry of commands, using entry of short keywords or codes to designate several operating commands. For example, entry of a program code published in a television guide, and associated with a particular television show, can start recording the channel broadcasting the show at the correct time and stop recording at the conclusion of the show, without the user having to explicitly specify the details of time and channel. However, even entering keyword/code data through the remote controller keypad 260 can be laborious, slow and often, frustrating.

It is desirable to bypass, or eliminate, laborious entry of user-preference data through a keypad 260. According to an example embodiment of the method of the present invention, a user enters user-selected preference data into the first computing device 210, for example a personal computer, using a QWERTY keyboard having greater functionality and/or an easier mode of alpha-

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numeric character data entry than keypad 260. The user may generate an email message containing the user-selected preference data, or access a web-based display and make HTTP-based selections, as described above for the portable telephone embodiment of the present invention. An electronic system identifier associated with the user-preference data is included with, or as part of, the user-selected preference data.

Assuming an e-mail based implementation of the present embodiment for illustration, the e-mail message containing the user-preference data and the electronic system identifier is subsequently sent to the second computing arrangement 220. The second computing device 220 is adapted to function as an electronic mail destination, for example by executing an e-mail software application of a server computing arrangement. The electronic system identifier may be used to direct the e-mail to a particular e-mail destination address when each electronic system has a unique e-mail address at the second computing arrangement. According to another example implementation, all e-mail messages are designated to a common e-mail address, the electronic system identifier being automatically extracted from the e-mail message to further route the user-selected preference data. For example, the "subject" or "Re" portion of the e-mail message, or the first line of the body of the message, or some other predefined configuration may be used to associate the electronic system identifier and user-selected preference data communicated in the e-mail message with the appropriate electronic system 250.--

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Please replace the paragraph 2-3 on page 12 with the following amended paragraphs:

According to one aspect of the present invention, each electronic system is predefined to be associated with a unique user identifier, and e-mail (or web-based data) associated with a particular user identifier is thereby associated with a particular associated electronic system. Electronic system identifiers include, for example, the telephone number of a portable telephone, a serial number of a particular device, or some other identifying designator unique to the equipment of the electronic system 250 service account.

The e-mail message contains user-selected preference data, for example, an electronic system configuration data (*e.g.*, clock settings, feature selections, operating parameters, etc.) and/or operating instructions (*e.g.*, recording instructions, keywords, codes, etc.). User selected preference data may be delineated [[bc]] by keywords, format, or by other methods compatible with a particular electronic system. The e-mail message, or relevant contents thereof, is stored in database 230 after being received by server 226.